## **CLAIMS**

1	1. A method of searching a collaborative document database, comprising the
2	steps of:
3	
4	providing parent documents and child documents in said database;
5	
6	for each parent document, building an index document listing a portion
7	of said child documents;
8	
9	providing a search term; and
10	
11	searching all said index documents for said search term.
1	2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein:
2	
3	each child document is related to at least one of the parent documents; and
4	
5	the building step includes the step of identifying in the index document for
6	each parent document, at least some of the child documents related to the
7	parent document.
1	3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the searching step includes the
2	step of, for each parent document, searching for the search term in the child
3	documents identified in the index document for the parent document.
1	4. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the identifying step includes the
2	step of identifying in the index document for each parent document, all of the
3	child documents related to the parent document.

1	5. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the identifying step includes the
2	step of identifying in the index document for each parent document, only the
3	child documents that both are related to the parent document and meet
4	predefined criteria.
1	6. A system for searching a collaborative document database, comprising:
2	
3	means for providing parent documents and child documents in said
4	database;
5	
6	means for building, for each parent document, an index document
7	listing a portion of said child documents;
8	
9	means for providing a search term; and
10	
11	means for searching all said index documents for said search term.
1	7. A system according to Claim 6, wherein:
2	
3	each child document is related to at least one of the parent documents; and
4	
5	the building means includes the means for identifying in the index document
6	for each parent document, at least some of the child documents related to the
7	parent document.
1	8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the searching means includes
2	means for searching, for each parent document, for the search term in the child
3	documents identified in the index document for the parent document.

1	9. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the identifying means includes the
2	means for identifying in the index document for each parent document, all of
3	the child documents related to the parent document.
1	10. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the identifying means includes
2	means for identifying in the index document for each parent document, only
3	the child documents that both are related to the parent document and meet
4	predefined criteria.
1	11. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a
2	program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps
3	for searching a collaborative document database, said method steps
4	comprising:
5	
6	providing parent documents and child documents in said database;
7	
8	for each parent document, building an index document listing a portion
9	of said child documents;
10	
11	providing a search term; and
12	
13	searching all said index documents for said search term.
1	12. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein:
2	
3	each child document is related to at least one of the parent documents; and
4	
5	the building step includes the step of identifying in the index document for
6	each parent document, at least some of the child documents related to the
7	parent document.

1	13. A program storage device according to Claim 12, wherein the searching
2	step includes the step of, for each parent document, searching for the search
3	term in the child documents identified in the index document for the parent
4	document.
1	14. A program storage device according to Claim 12, wherein the identifying
2	step includes the step of identifying in the index document for each parent
3	document, all of the child documents related to the parent document.
1	15. A program storage device according to Claim 12, wherein the identifying
2	step includes the step of identifying in the index document for each parent
3	document, only the child documents that both are related to the parent
4	document and meet predefined criteria.